

REMARKS

1. Claims 1-74 were pending. This communication amends claims 1-4, 6-16, 22, 26, 29, 32, 33, 38, 39, 41, 43, 45, 47, 48, 53, 54, 56, 60, 62, 63, 68, 69 and 71 and cancels claims 5, 21, 30, 31, 46, and 61. Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

2. The specification has been amended to include "BACKGROUND", "SUMMARY", "BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS", AND "DETAILED DESCRIPTION" section headings. The abstract has been amended to eliminate legal phraseology and reference numerals.

3. Claim 43 stands rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph because the term "push rod" lacks an antecedent basis in the claim. In response, claim 43 has been amended to depend from claim 42 (which positively recites "a push rod") to provide antecedent basis for the aforesaid term. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully urged.

4. Claims 5-14, 16-21, 26-28, 31-39, 41, 42, 44, 46-54, 56-59, 61-69 and 71-74 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In response, the claims have been amended as follows:

- independent claim 1 amended to include the limitations of allowable dependent claim 5;
- independent claim 15 amended to include the limitations of allowable dependent claim 21;
- allowable dependent claim 16 rewritten in independent form;

- allowable dependent claim 26 rewritten in independent form;
 - independent claim 29 amended to include the limitations of allowable dependent claim 31 and intervening dependent claim 30;
 - allowable dependent claim 41 rewritten in independent form;
 - independent claim 45 amended to include the limitations of allowable dependent claim 46;
 - allowable dependent claim 56 rewritten in independent form;
 - independent claim 60 amended to include the limitations of allowable dependent claim 61; and
 - allowable dependent claim 71 rewritten in independent form.
5. Claim 1 has also been amended to eliminate the reference numerals.
6. Claims 2-4 and 6-14 have been amended to eliminate reference numerals.
7. Claims 6, 7 and 8 have also been amended to depend from claim 1.
8. Claims 6 and 7 have been further amended to eliminate the double recitation of the term “the”.
9. Claim 22 has been amended to depend from claim 16.
10. Claims 32, 33, 38 and 39 have each been amended to depend from claim 29.

11. Claims 47, 48, 53 and 54 have each been amended to depend from claim 45.

12. Claims 62, 63, 68 and 69 have each been amended to depend from claim 60.

13. Claims 1-4, 15 and 22-25 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,748,850 B1 to Kraan.

This rejection is moot as independent claims 1 and 15 have been amended to include the limitations of allowable dependent claims 5 and 21 respectively. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully urged.

14. It is noted that U.S. Patent 6,748,850 B1 to Kraan is not listed on a PTO 892. A PTO 892 listing U.S. Patent 6,748,850 B1 to Kraan is respectfully requested with the next Office Action.

15. Claims 29, 30, 40, 45, 55, 60 and 70 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,649,472 to Fond et al.

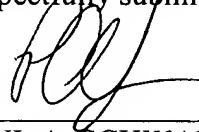
This rejection is moot as independent claims 29, 45 and 60 have been amended to include the limitations of allowable dependent claims 31, 46, and 61 respectively. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully urged.

16. Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested as it is believed that all outstanding issues have been addressed herein and, further, that claims 1-4, 6-20, 22-29, 32-45, 47-60 and 62-74 are in condition for allowance, early notification of which is earnestly

solicited. Should there be any questions or matters whose resolution may be advanced by a telephone call, the examiner is cordially invited to contact applicants' undersigned attorney at his number listed below.

17. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any additional filing fees required under 37 CFR 1.16 and any patent application processing fees under 37 CFR 1.17, which are associated with this communication, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-2061.

Respectfully submitted,



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